

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-01 AGR-05 /088 W

----- 110909

R 101737Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2446

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, CI

SUBJECT: CHILEAN ATTITUDE TOWARD SELA

1. SUMMARY. GOC HAS TAKEN CAUTIOUS POSITION CONCERNING MEXICAN-VENEZUELAN PROPOSAL FOR SISTEVL ECONOMICO LATINO AMERIKA. (SELA). VENEZUELAN EMISSARY WHO RECENTLY VISITED HERE WAS CORDIALLY RECEIVED BUT GIVEN NO ASSURANCE THAT CHILE WOULD PARTICIPATE. IN EMBASSY VIEW, GOC IS LIKELY TO JOIN DESPITE SERIOUS MISGIVINGS IF MOST OTHER HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES DO SO. END SUMMARY.

2. EL MERCURIO OF MARCH 7 REPORTED VISIT TO SANTIAGO OF JESUS

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FERNANDEZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELAN FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE, WHO CONSULTED WITH GOC CONCERNING FORMATION OF SELA. CHILEAN SUBSECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, COL ENRIQUE VALDES, WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID CHILE WILL STUDY THE PROPOSAL AND REPLY AFTER AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO JOIN HAS BEEN RECEIVED. WITHOUT CITING SOURCE, EL MERCURIO REPORTED THAT SELA WOULD BE ENGAGED IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES: STUDY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY; DETERMINE POLICIES OF COOPERATION; EXPLORE STEPS TO DEFEND PRICES OF BASIC COMMODITIES; STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF MEMBERS TO BUY CAPITAL GOODS AND TECHNOLOGY; GUARANTEE THE SUPPLY OF INDUSTRIAL INPUTS AND FOODS; DIRECT AND STIMULATE REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INTEGRATION; ORGANIZE AND SUPPORT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INVESTMENT AND FORMATION OF PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL MANPOWER; DESIGN AND PUT IN OPERATION FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO STIMULATE BASIC ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA.

3. AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS DISCUSSED FERNANDEZ' VISIT WITH GOC MINISTER OF ECONOMIC COORDINATION RAUL SAEZ ON MARCH 7. SAEZ DESCRIBED FERNANDEZ' PRESENTATION AS LOW KEY AND EFFECTIVE. HOWEVER, FERNANDEZ WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT SELA ORGANIZATION AND INTENT, ACCORDING TO SAEZ. FERNANDEZ DID EMPHASIZE THAT SELA WOULD NOT BE ANTI-U.S. SAEZ SAID THAT LATIN AMERICA SHOULD HAVE SELA OR CECLA, BUT NOT BOTH. HE THOUGHT FURTHER PROLIFERATION OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED.

4. SAEZ TOLD US THAT GOC HAD ASKED ITS AMBASSADORS IN BRASILIA, MONTEVIDEO, BUENOS AIRES, ASUNCION AND LA PAZ FOR REACTIONS OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS TO SELA PROPOSAL. ONLY REPLY RECEIVED SO FAR, SAEZ SAID, WAS FROM BRASILIA. CHILEAN EMBASSY REPORTS GOB NOT ACTIVELY OPPOSING SELA BUT GIVES IT LITTLE IMPORTANCE. GOB GIVES HIGHEST PRIORITY TO ITS BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S., IN OPINION OF CHILEAN EMBASSY.

5. COMMENT: SAEZ IS CONCERNED THAT SELA, UNDER MEXICAN AND VENEZUELAN INFLUENCE, WILL ENGAGE IN CONFRONTATIONAL TACTICS WITH U.S.--SOMETHING THAT GOC DOES NOT FAVOR. ALSO, CHILE MAY FIND ITS ECONOMIC INTERESTS BEING IGNORED BY LARGER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SELA COUNTRIES. STILL, JUDING FROM SAEZ'S REMARKS, WE EXPECT GOC WILL RELUCTANTLY GO ALONG WITH SELA IDEA IF IT GETS SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT IN REST OF HEMISPHERE.
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